GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3904
ANSWERED ON:09.04.2003
RATES OF MOBILE SERVICES
RAMSINH PATALIYABHAI RATHWA

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cellular companies in the country have slashed their rates;

(b) if so, the rates/schemes at present being offered by these cell phone operators in the country;

(c) whether the rates of MTNL and BSNL are very expensive as compared to these cell phone operators; and

(d) if so, the comparative rates of cell phone operators vis-Ã -vis landline operators, namely, MTNL/BSNL?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI S MAHAJAN)

(a) to (d): Sir, the Telecom. Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) is responsible for fixation of tariffs for telecom services including Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS) in the country.Tariff for CMTS is currently under forbearance which means that the cellular operators are at liberty to offer various tariff options. Tariffs for CMTS have shown a continuously downward trend in the recent past; this is mainly due to the increased competition in the Cellular Sector. Cellular operators have various tariff plans with varying rates of monthly rental and airtime charges, which they go on revising from time to time. Information provided by TRAI indicates that currently there are more than 600 different tariff plans available for the cellular subscribers across the country. As such it is not possible to make a meaningful comparison between the tariffs charged for CMTS by the cellular operators and tariff charged by BSNL and MTNL for land line phones (under Basic Telephone Services).